

REMARKS

Claim 19 is amended herein. Claims 1-41 are pending and under consideration.

Regarding the claim objection, claim 19 is amended herein.

The rejections based on Watanabe and Yong are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the pickups being at a same radial distance from a center of the disk so that the pickups held by corresponding ones of the pickup transferring units are inspected at once according to a same reading operation. The Examiner admits that Watanabe does not teach these features.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper. As previously noted, Watanabe specifically teaches that the magnetic heads having the same radius r "cannot be adopted." In response, the Examiner currently maintains the rejection "because Yong overcomes the problem of not having the units at the same radius as taught by Watanabe."

However, Watanabe does not teach that "not having the units at the same radius" is a problem. This reference teaches the opposite. Watanabe teaches that having the units at the same radius is a problem, and the solution is to have the units at different radii.

Specifically, the Background of the Invention portion of Watanabe teaches that when one head device records and another reads at the same radius, recording/reading cannot be achieved with reliability. Watanabe, col. 2, ln. 19-26. The solution to this problem (the problem of same radii) is to place the magnetic head devices on different scanning regions in the radial direction. Watanabe, col. 2, ln. 45-46. Thus, Yong does not solve any problem set forth in Watanabe. Under the teaching of Watanabe, Yong only creates a problem.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

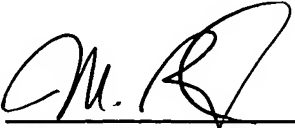
Serial No. 10/616,035

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-18-08

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